Redefining of adjusted gross revenue

274. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom companies have been demanding slashing of fees they will have to pay to Government and redefining Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR);

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether the telecom companies are charging consumers this fees which they are paying to Government;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to redefine AGR, so that the benefits are passed on to the consumers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While there is no change in license fee for access services since 01-4-2004, the license fee for long distance services was reduced to 6% of AGR with effect from 01-01-2006. There is no change in the definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). However, the subject matter is *sub-judice* in the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

(c) The consumers are charged by the telecom companies based on cost of operation and market competition. The cost of operation includes the component of license fee related to provision of services.

(d) and (e) The matter regarding definition of AGR is *sub-judice* before the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Skilled manpower for IT sector

275. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the impressive growth of the Information Technology (IT) Sector and the potential demand for a large work force, there is enough skilled manpower to match such demand;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the country which churns out 15 lakh graduates every year is not in a position to meet with the needs of the booming I.T. Sector;

(d) whether leading IT Companies in the country are searching abroad for such expertise; and

(e) the need for reservation and blocking of seats in Institutes of higher learning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Task Force on 'Human Resource Development in Information Technology' set up by Government of India had noted that the issue of manpower gap is not as much about the institutional seat availability as about the nature of skills and training provided in these institutions.

(d) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) the companies are currently hiring overseas for their local requirements, some have also established operations in other countries.

(e) Does not arise.

Order book position of ITI

276. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the financial result of ITI during the last three years including 2005-06;

(b) the steps taken to improve its turnover and profits;

(c) whether Government had reserved for ITI 30 per cent of the orders for Rs. 6 crore GSM lines requirement of BSNL;

(d) whether the same reservation has been put in abeyance since May this year;